

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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REC'D	08 FEB 2006
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference FIS920030208	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US03/38517	International filing date (day/month/year) 05 December 2003 (05.12.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): B32B 18/00, 31/18, 31/26 and US Cl.: 156/89.12, 267; 428/210		
Applicant INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of ___ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 30 June 2005 (30.06.2005)	Date of completion of this report 03 January 2006 (03.01.2006)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/ US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Authorized officer  Melvin Curtis Mayes Telephone No. 571-272-1700

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet)(July 1998)

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International application No.

PCT/US03/38517

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*** the international application as originally filed. the description:pages 1-22 as originally filed
pages NONE filed with the demand
pages NONE filed with the letter of _____ the claims:pages 23-25 as originally filed
pages NONE as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages NONE filed with the demand
pages NONE filed with the letter of _____ the drawings:pages 1-5 as originally filed
pages NONE filed with the demand
pages NONE filed with the letter of _____ the sequence listing part of the description:pages NONE as originally filed
pages NONE filed with the demand
pages NONE filed with the letter of _____**2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.**

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).**3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:** contained in the international application in printed form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.**4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:** the description, pages NONE the claims, Nos. NONE the drawings, sheets/fig NONE**5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).****** Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).**** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.*

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US03/38517**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>3-6, 9, 11-13, 15-18, 20 and 22-24</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 14, 19, 21 and 25</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>3-6, 9, 11-13, 15-18, 20 and 22-24</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 14, 19, 21 and 25</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-25</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 14, 19, 21 and 25 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Natarajan et al. (US 6,627,020).

Natarajan et al. disclose a method of sinter distortion control comprising: providing at least one non-densifying structure 10 which can be single continuous members (continuous non-densifying structures) such as thin strips (tailored shapes) on the kerf area 50 (local peripheral kerf area) between individual product samples on a green sheet having kerf area between product samples (local peripheral kerf area) and kerf area around the periphery of the green sheet (peripheral external kerf area); laminating green sheets; sintering; and separating the non-densifying structure from the product substrates using wet sizing (post sinter sizing) (col. 4-8).

Claims 3-6, 9, 11-13, 15-18, 20 and 22-24 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest providing and placing at least one second continuous non-densifying structure on the external peripheral kerf area, in addition to at least one first continuous non-densifying structure placed on local peripheral kerf area.

Claims 1-25 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus meet industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

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VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the questions whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claims 5, 12, 17 and 23 are objected to under PCT Rule 66.2(a)(v) as lacking clarity under PCT Article 6 because claims are indefinite for the following reason(s): the claims claim that zirconia is a metal, however zirconia is not a metal but a ceramic.